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AGRICULTURE MECHANIC ARTS GENERAL INTELLIGENCE

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NO. 3.



Our Home, our Country, our Brother Man.

Sugar Making.

The time will soon come when a great deal of Maple Sugar may be made in Maine. Whether much will be made, is a question we are not able to answer. Our knowledge of the business enables us to say this: not a quarter so much is made in this State as there could be and ought to be made. We have never been able to find any statistical account of what amount of this article is manufactured annually by our farmers, and of course can give no very exact information in regard to it.

We suppose that the principal part is made by farmers in different sections of the State, for their own use, and that but a very little surplus is made for sale. The market for this kind sugar is not sufficiently encouraging to warrant any very extensive outlay; because the southern cane sugar is afforded so cheap that it can undersell the maple sugar. This is partly owing to the high price of labor among us.

We should like to see a comparative trial of the cost and amount of sugar made from an acre of thrifty maple trees, and from an acre of thrifty sugar cane—all the conditions being equal, as far as they could be. But if maple sugar can be compared with cane sugar in our markets, we are satisfied that maple molasses can. All who have ever used maple molasses prepared, do not hesitate to give it the preference of that made from cane, and brought into our market.

We commenced this article merely to call attention to the subject. Those who live on the frontier part of our State, have abundant facilities for this business. The thousands and thousands of acres of "wild land," covered with rock maple, furnish the capital stock at hand, which may be had without money and without price. The land agent, we believe, would never interpose any authority (if he has any so to do), to prevent any one from tapping the sugar maples on the State lands, and from the manufacturing the sap into sugar and molasses.

A person who is disposed to make a "hermitage"—a "lodge in some vast wilderness," for the purpose of cultivating its sweets, would require but little capital over and above his time and courage. A camp, sufficiently warm and convenient to shelter him, buckets, and one of Mott's agricultural furnaces, and requisite supplies of subsistence, is all that is needed. Why not carry the business on afar from home and friends, as well as lumbering and hunting?

In regard to apparatus for boiling down the sap, if it is not convenient to procure Mott's boiler, which is a cauldron attached to a movable stand, the following mode of making a cheap evaporator, which we take from the last number of the Ohio Cultivator, may be interesting and worth knowing.

Mr. Williams, communicates the mode of making it, and the Cultivator says that it is much quicker and easier heated, with less cost of fuel in boiling, and does not crust or burn around the top to the injury of the sugar, as is the case with the cast-iron boilers.

CONSTRUCTION. The size of the evaporators, four or five feet long, two and a half feet wide, and nine inches deep, the bottom and ends of good heavy sheet-iron, and the sides one and a half inch plank. The sheet-iron must be as much longer than the vessel, as twice the depth, (18 inches) so as to turn up and form the two ends, as high as the plank sides. The iron should be as thick as can be easily pierced with a steel punch. Let the bottom corners of the plank be a little rounded to suit the bend of the iron. Now turn the plank bottom edge upwards, and place a strip of slippery elm bark (we presume the inner bark of cedar or basswood will be as good. Ed.) on the edge, to make a more perfect joint, then nail on the sheet-iron very firmly, as a shoemaker pegs on the sole of a shoe—punching the holes about one inch apart, within half an inch of each edge of the plank, alternately. These evaporators should be placed on arches of brick, (or stone,) and put away, in a dry place, as soon as done using. With ordinary careful usage, so as to avoid burning and rusting, they will be found very durable.

In regard to Maple Molasses, there is usually one drawback to its value. It is very liable to ferment, especially if kept in an ordinary warm place.

We find, in the same number of the Ohio Cultivator a communication from Mrs. J. G., giving the following directions for preserving it, as follows:

After the molasses is made, I set it away a week to settle. I then take off all scum, if any; then I pour off—leaving all settlings. I then put it away in demijohns, jars, or high stone crocks set them in a cupboard or under the stairs in the entry, (or in any other convenient place. Ed.) There will be a scum rise on the top of the jars or crocks, and so long as that remains unbroken, the molasses never ferments.

After I commence on a jar, in hot weather, if it should ferment, I boil it carefully, take off all the scum that may rise. I have often kept it in this way the year round, as good as first made.

Query about Wire Fences.

Has any body in Maine made a fair trial of wire fences? If so, we should be happy to hear what his experience said on the subject? In many of the older portions of our young State, lumber is scarce and fences a very expensive item to a farmer.

Any thing that will make a cheap, durable and efficient fence, is a desideratum in those parts. We have published all the information that came to us from time to time on this subject, but as it is comparatively a new thing, and as we make it a rule to be cautious in recommending new things to our brother farmers any further than a careful trial of them proves their utility, we have not yet

recommended this very strongly. We want the result of experience upon this matter. Will they answer to divide off pastures and fields from herds of cattle and sheep and horses? Or are they only fitted for some gentleman's lawn, merely to keep back some quiet, peaceable old cow, or still more gentle old horse from coming up and browsing the shrubs and flowers that skirt the gravel walk? Can you tell us all about it, or has the fencing world yet to wait a while longer for the knowledge? There is one item of information respecting using wire in fences, that we believe is valuable and has stood the test of experiment; and that is using good annealed wire instead of wiles for stake and board fence. We believe our neighbor, John Fife, of Augusta, was the first to adopt this article—at any rate, we saw, a few years ago, that it was then doing good service on his farm. Mr. F. told us the cost, per panel, for the fence, was two cents. We do not now recollect what the size of the wire was. Will he have the goodness to give us the particulars in regard to it, not only as to the cost, but how it stands the wear and tear of service, winds, frosts, &c., &c.

It has been said that by annealing the wire it is prevented from rusting when exposed to the weather. This is a very simple method, if it be true.

Strength, durability and economy are the requisites of a good fence. If wire fence with stone posts meets all these requirements, we need not look farther at present. It cannot be expected that every fact in regard to this species of fencing has yet been brought to light, but if those who have made experiments will communicate the results, failures as well as successes, the knowledge will be very valuable to many.

OHIO CULTIVATOR. This excellent paper is still owned and edited by M. B. Bateham, who conducts it with great ability, and with commendable zeal for the interests of the Buckeye State. It comes out with a new vignette head, and a new dress all round.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

On Crops.

The Committee of the Kennebec County Agricultural Society on Crops, after carefully examining all the statements presented to them, came to the conclusion that premiums should be awarded as follows:

ON CORN. The first to Lauriston Guild, of Sidney; the second to J. A. Smith, of Vassalboro'; and the third to L. N. Wadsworth, of Hallowell.

ON WHEAT. The first to Moses Taber, of Vassalboro', for his crop of Winter wheat; the second to Edward Fossett, of Vassalboro'; and the third to L. N. Wadsworth.

ON BARLEY. The first to Moses Taber, (the only entry.)

ON OATS. The first to Wm. Weeks.

ON RUTABAGAS. The first to S. N. Watson, of Fayette, for the best crop on half an acre; the second to Moses Taber, for the second best half acre; and to Charles A. Metcalf, of Winthrop, the first premium for the best crop on a quarter of an acre.

ON CARROTS. The first to Cyrus Sampson, of Winthrop.

ON POTATOES. The first to Moses Taber, and the second to L. N. Wadsworth.

ON COMPOST. The first to Moses Taber, (the only entry.)

ON FLAX. The first to Aaron George, of Ellsworth, and the second to Samuel White, of Winthrop. Respectfully submitted,

HORACE PARLIN, Per order.

Statements.

We have thought it might be a matter of interest to the readers of the Farmer, to have some more important facts in relation to the various crops which were entered for premiums published. These we gather from the statements of the several competitors, which have come into the hands of the Secretary. We have taken the liberty to abridge these statements, and after the phraseology in some particulars, while we have been careful to present all the more interesting facts which they contain.

ON CORN. Mr. Guild, to whom the first premium was awarded, states that the soil on which his crop was raised is gravelly; it had been pastured two years with sheep, and was plowed in the month of October, about nine inches deep. He spread eighteen common cart-loads of manure on the acre, which was worked in with a cultivator. The ground was furrowed 3 ft. one way by 3 ft. the other, and about a handful of equal parts of plaster, ashes and old manure, was dropped in each hill. From six to nine kernels of the eight-rowed corn were dropped in a hill, which were afterwards thinned down to five or six. The corn was hoed twice; about six days' labor in hoeing. It was harvested in October; cut up by the roots, and shocked in the field. Two cart-loads of pumpkins grew with the corn. From one acre one hundred and ninety bushels of ears were husked, and from one bushel of ears one-half a bushel and two quarts of corn was shelled.

Mr. Wadsworth, who received the third premium, states that the land on which his crop was raised, was a piece of old mowing ground, which produced in the summer of 1848 not more than one-half a ton of hay per acre; it was broken in October to a good depth, without dressing of any kind. In the spring the ground was harrowed thoroughly with a heavy harrow, leaving off a turf undisturbed. The hills were laid off as near as practicable 3 ft. by 2 ft., and a good shovelful of common winter-rotted manure was put into the hill. The corn was planted about the 20th of May; it was hoed twice, and the ground was entirely and thoroughly stirred. Soon after the blades broke the ground, a part of the acre received a light top-dressing of ashes. He gathered from the growth of this acre 160 bushels of ears, or 73 bushels of shelled corn, (allowing 10 per cent. for shrinkage, which is a liberal allowance.) The kind raised was an eight-rowed variety.

Mr. E. C. Soell, of Winthrop, states that the ground upon which his corn grew has been mowed, a part about twenty and the remainder eight years, and produced about half a ton of hay per acre. Late in the fall of 1848, it was plowed, and 5 cords of barn-yard manure was hauled on

to it; in the spring 5 cords of long manure was spread, and cultivated and harrowed in, and 3 cords of hog manure was put in the furrow. The furrows were 3 ft. apart; and the hills on an average two feet apart in the rows. The greater part of the ground is a clay loam. Three quarters of it was hoed twice; the remaining quarter only once. The last week in September he gathered from one acre seventy-one bushels of corn, three cart-loads of pumpkins, two bushels of beans and two bushels of potatoes.

The following statement shows the estimated expense and profit of Mr. Soell's crop:

Dr. Plowing,	\$1 50
Planting, four days,	4 00
Cultivating and harrowing,	2 00
Furrowing and plowing among corn,	3 00
Hoeing, four days,	4 00
Total expense,	\$17 00

Cn. 71 bushels corn, at 75 c.,	\$53 25
Three loads pumpkins,	3 00
Two bushels potatoes,	1 00
Two bushels beans,	3 00
Total,	\$60 25
Deduct expense,	17 00
Profit from one acre,	\$43 25

Mr. S. Stanley, of Winthrop, from a worn-out mowing field, which was plowed in May about ten inches deep, to which 53 cords of manure was applied—one half, green, stable-manure, was spread; the other half, old manure, was put in the hill—harvested from an acre 132 bushels of ears of good, sound corn. The cost of the crop is estimated at \$30.25, including \$8.25 for the manure. It was hoed only once.

ON BARLEY. Mr. Taber says: "I have raised on two and one-half acres ninety bushels of barley. One acre (soil a deep, gravelly loam) was planted in 1847 with corn, and in 1848 with potatoes. In those years about six cords of long manure and four cords of compost were used; also twenty bushels of leached ashes and three of plaster. First of fifth month, plowed deep and sowed two bushels of clover seed and 30 lbs. of clover. Harrowed it twice and rolled it. The young blades, when two or three inches high, were attacked by some insect that destroyed nearly one-half on some parts of the lot, which we think lessened the crop from five to ten bushels. When the heads had arrived at that stage of maturity commonly called the red row, and whilst the field presented as much of green as yellow in color of straw, it was mowed, and after lying one day, the swaths were turned: the next afternoon it was raked and cocked, and hay caps put on, which completely secured it against a smart rain storm. The product of this acre was forty-two bushels. The other 14 acres suffered by a few inches deep part of the piece being on soil but a few inches deep above the ledge.

"I think a great loss is often sustained in the barley crop by letting it stand until too ripe, or if cut green, by lying several days to the great injury of the straw for fodder and the loss of grain by shattering. In mid-winter, our cows, whilst giving little or no milk, keep well on this straw, with one bushel of beets, daily, to four cows, and we are now feeding one hundred middle-aged sheep entirely on barley, wheat and buckwheat straw, with seven bushels of turnips per day. The oldest of the flock and lambs are kept on hay.

"Barley requires a dry, mellow soil, and it will not do well if the soil is wet and heavy. It is generally thought best to sow this grain as late as the time of planting corn; we have had better success when sown earlier. The ground must be dry, however. The seed sown by us, (two-rowed variety,) was raised in New York, and it produces 100 per cent. more than seed grown in this vicinity, other things being equal."

ON OATS. Mr. Weeks, of Vassalboro', to whom the premium was awarded, raised two hundred bushels of oats on three acres and twenty rods of land. The land was broken up in the fall of 1847; the next spring it was sowed with oats and wheat; in the fall it had a light dressing, and was plowed. Last spring the cultivator and harrow were used upon it thoroughly: eleven bushels of seed were sown, and the ground was rolled. On RUTABAGAS. Mr. Watson, to whom the first premium was awarded, states that the soil on which his crop was raised was a yellow, rocky loam. It was broken up in the fall of 1847; it was sowed to oats in 1848, without manure; the stubble was plowed in early. In the spring of 1849, eight cords of manure from the barn-yard and stable were spread on; it was plowed, harrowed, cross-plowed and harrowed again, until the soil and manure were well mixed together, and the soil very fine. The rows were two feet apart, in which were scattered a sufficient quantity of plaster to white the top of the earth; the seed was dropped in (about the 10th of June) and covered with the hoe. The last of October, from one half acre 425 bushels were harvested.

The estimated expense is as follows:

6 days preparing ground,	\$6 00
5 days planting and hoeing,	5 00
6 days harvesting,	6 00
8 cords of manure,	8 00
Total,	\$25 00

425 bushels of rutabagas, 25c. per bu., \$106 25

Cost of raising, 25 00

Net profit, \$81 25

Mr. Taber's statement is as follows: "I have raised the present year, on about three and one-quarter acres, 530 bushels of Nova Scotia white blue-nose potatoes. One acre of dry loam, (in its primitive state, much filled with large boulders and small stones of granite,) produced 210 bushels.

This land had been mown several years previous to the last of 8th month, 1848, when it was ploughed to the depth of eight or nine inches. First of 5th month, 1849, about seven cords of long manure (one half at least straw, mixed in bedding stock) was spread and plowed in one half the depth the ground was broke.

With a very light horse-plow, shovelfurrows were made about two and three-quarter feet asunder, and small potatoes, 12 to 14 inches apart, were covered with a furrow 2 to 3 inches deep. As soon as the plants broke ground, the cultivator was passed full depth between the rows, and as near to them as possible without dragging out the potatoes. Some two or three weeks after, when the plants had attained a full size for hoeing, a single-horse double-mould-board plow turned light furrows toward them, which left but little to be done by hand and hoe. No further cultivation except about midsummer the weeds were pulled from the rows, and cut between them with a sharp hoe to prevent their seeding.

In a favorable season for the growth of potatoes, this would be considered a small crop, but as it has been far otherwise, and the potatoes are of large size, sound, and of excellent quality I offer them for premium.

In 1843, I made a short tour through three of the easterly counties in our State. In the southeasterly part of Washington county, in towns not far from Eastport, there were some excellent farms, and consequently good farmers. They were raising the variety of potatoes called white blue-nose, extensively, and to great advantage; they were selling them to ship, to our principal

markets at seventy-five per cent. higher than our best cheneago would sell for at the time. The next spring, I ordered two barrels from Nova Scotia, for seed. Since then, we have continued to raise them, and we believe have not lost one per cent. by the rot, unless in one or two cases when planted as late or later than the middle of sixth month, although in the time, we have planted 10 or 15 other different varieties, all of which have been injured, and some entirely spoiled.

They will not produce near as well on a hard chance, without manure, as some other varieties; but on land in good till, between 400 and 450 bushels were raised to the acre in Washington county, the season I was there; at least so said the entries for premium to the Agricultural Society. I learned, too, that by long experiment they found that small potatoes were equally as good for seed as large ones, with which we concur, after careful experimenting.

This potato will bear high manuring, even in the hill, without danger of the rot.

Early breaking of green sward, for planting the next year, we consider very desirable; the sod becomes so far decomposed as to admit plowing in manure half depth, which we think very much preferable to turning it under the sward, or spreading it on the surface after plowing; as it leaves it at the right point to feed the plants, and likewise to prevent waste, by the salts descending to the ammonia ascending.

Believing it highly important to change seed often, we sent east, last spring, to renew our stock."

Mr. Wadsworth planted one acre of Long Red potatoes, about the middle of May, on a moist, gravelly loam, which was broken up in the month of September, 1848. This land was dressed with about six cords per acre of green, barn and stable manure, which was harrowed together with the soil. The hills were 3 ft. by 2 feet apart; they were hoed twice during the season. When dug, they exhibited only very slight symptoms of rot; nor does their appearance since placed in the cellar indicate any considerable effects of disease. From this acre, 158 bushels of good potatoes were harvested.

The statements on wheat, compost manure and flax, will be noticed in another number.

Winter Management of Fowls.

The great art in the management of hens, in order to render them profitable, is to cause them to lay in winter, as it is this season in which eggs are scarce and high. If a person keeps a flock of hens in order to supply his family with eggs, or for the purpose of selling the eggs in market, he must manage so that they will lay in winter, else they will not generally pay their expenses.

For in the first case, he will be under the necessity of buying eggs when they are very dear, and if he produces eggs for the market, he has them all when every body's hens lay, and he must sell them at a low rate.

To cause hens to lay in winter, furnish them with a warm, dry shelter, in a warm location, where they can be free from cold winds, and enjoy a good share of sunshine. The hen-house should be kept clean, and all filth from remains of food should be carefully removed. There should be a good supply of gravel, which ought to be renewed occasionally, or dug over so as to furnish a fresh lot often.

Hens should have a constant supply of pure water, and pure, wholesome food. They are fond of corn, barley, oats, buckwheat, rye, rice, millet, boiled potatoes, and various other kinds of food. Generally, the cheapest grain may be used as their principal food; but it is better to supply them with several kinds. They are very fond of corn, and they flourish well with this as their main food. Boiled potatoes, mashed up, while hot, with meal of almost any kind of grain, or with wheat bran or shorts, and given warm, are an excellent food in cold weather, and greatly promotes laying. Changes in food are advantageous. Hens prefer variety, as well as non-feathered birds.

In winter, and in summer, when confined to small yards, hens should have a small supply of animal food. Refuse meat or fish may be given, cooked or raw. Scraps are often obtained, for this purpose, from the tallow dealer; but this is not so acceptable to hens as fresh meat or fish, which may be obtained at a cheap rate, or gratis, from the fish market or butcher. Fresh, unspiced bones, pounded or chopped fine, are excellent, as they supply both animal food and lime.

[New-England Farmer.]

Cut Fodder for Stock.

In our New-England correspondent, W., satisfied with the advantages that have already been pointed out, as accruing from the practice of cutting fodder for cattle! Here is another instance, which might be said to spring from interested motives, that has long been exemplified in the farm management of a friend, whose possessions are large, and his ability equal to the demand for it. Our friend J. J. has, for some years past, chafed the hay field to his horses, for the following prudential reason, viz., "I require all the time and strength of my teams in their labor, and am therefore careful to procure for them all the rest in my power. And as I find they fit themselves in less than one-half the time, if their hay is cut and wetted, and sprinkled with a due portion of corn meal, shorts, &c., it stands to reason that I should practice chaffing or cutting my hay on this principle, if on no other. And this I have long done, at a trifling extra expense, my men, six in number, and of the right sort, taking the task of working the machine by rotation. And at no time is the value of this system of chaffing so discernable, as in baiting time in the middle of the day, when the teams consume their allotted provender, and are at rest, in one half the time, it used to take them to stand over and grind up a lock of long dry hay. So that, take it one way with another, I calculate I save as much as they gain, by the operation of cutting my hay by the machine." [Boston Cultivator.]

SHIP-TYMER MACHINE. A Yankee has invented a machine for preparing the irregular shaped timber employed in ship building. Two of these machines are now in operation in the Woolwich Dock-yard, and the inventor, Mr. Cochran, is about to establish an extensive depot of ship-timber in New York, where with the aid of his machinery he may be prepared to execute orders for ship-timber of any form or size, to any extent. So says the Journal of Commerce.

Feeding and Fattening Swine.

Mr. Estlin: Many of the experiments I have observed, have resulted in a loss, instead of profit to the owners. And why is this? In the first place, I am aware that an error is committed in the outset. We buy too much live pork; the main object should be, to make pork, not to buy it. If we buy large pigs of the live weight of 150 to 200 lbs., at the prices usually demanded, which is often, even more than net weight pork will bring in the market, we have suffered a loss in advance. We should also consult economy in judging what number of hogs we can keep to advantage; the larger our family, and the larger our dairy, the more we shall find it expedient to keep; for there are a variety of articles in a family which may be thrown to waste and be lost, if not given to pigs. Almost all of every kind, trade, or profession, especially out of the cities, find it a matter of convenience to keep at least one hog. Although corn, or meal, is the staple article for fattening, yet there are remnants of bread, meats, fish, vegetables, and various other articles, such as skim-milk, whey, &c., from a dairy, which greatly promote the growth of pigs, and become a nuisance cast into the gutter. These it would be unfeeling to attempt to show that by keeping only a suitable number of hogs, and leaving out of the account all waste articles, that raising our own pork may be more economical than buying pork for cash.

In endeavoring to show this, I would maintain that a hog should be fattened in the shortest possible time. That therefore, a good appetite should if possible be created and preserved. If a hog will eat well, he will fatten, and if he will not eat well, he will not fatten, but waste more than he will eat. Give him that which suits his palate best, and he will soon gain a good appetite; purchase molasses and sweeten his dough; rather than he should not eat up all clean. Sweet apples are good for this purpose, when to be had. Since the potato rot has commenced, I have used sweet apples as a substitute, boiling and mixing them with meal, and think them a far superior article to the potato.

A hog to be fattened cheaply, and in the shortest time, should constantly be fed to the full, and fed regularly at about the same hours daily. I am in the habit of throwing into the pen between meals, ashes, containing some charred coal, rotten wood, weeds from the garden, &c.; all these quicken the appetite. But I have no practice superior, or equal to sweetening dough with molasses, to give a hog an appetite, and to fatten him. I use the rinsings of molasses hogheads, which cost nothing; but \$1.30 would buy all the sweetening necessary for one hog.

But to endeavor to illustrate what I have said, I will show you the result of an experiment I am making the present season on a pig managed in the manner I have recommended.

Cost of a pig, 50 lbs. live weight, at 44 cts per lb., \$22.50; 6 bushels meal fed, up to September 5th, at 75c., \$4.50; 13 lbs. do, to December 6th, when killed, at 78c., \$10.14; total cost, \$37.14.

Weight of hog December 6th, 411 lbs.; deduct weight live pig, 50; net gain over live weight, 361.

At 11 lb., at 64c. per lb., market price, comes to \$71.71; total cost of feeding, \$108.85; net profit, \$71.71.

I have made no account of milk or molasses fed, as we are never in the habit of selling skim-milk, but when sweet, give it to our neighbors for family use, and the molasses costs nothing. I fed to this pig, about half the skim-milk produced from a cow, say two gallons per day up to September 5th, 90 days, mixing with it meal which only produced what I desired, a rapid growth. I then commenced fattening him, always feeding him to the full, using in the remaining 90 days, about six gallons of the rinsings of molasses hogheads, occasionally sweetening the meal, using some skim-milk. In the whole 180 days, the gain per day appears to be a fraction over two lbs., but would have been considerably more, had both been weighed alive; the true method of ascertaining the correct net gain.

Some may think that a single hog in a pen, may be made to do better than each, where a number are kept together in a pen; I think I have found the fact to be the reverse of this; hogs soon to love society, and after a short acquaintance, become attached to each other, and are peaceable and quiet, thriving better than one alone.

I have taken some pains to show the true reasons of so many failures to find profitable returns from keeping swine, a matter of much general importance.

Hamilton, Dec. 10.

When molasses can be had very cheap it may pay the way to use some for hogs. This was done when pork was worth ten cents a pound. Sweet apples are excellent for hogs—and sweet apples may be grown as cheap as some apples. Common cider apples are sometimes sold as low as six cents a bushel. When hogs run in the orchard the cost of gathering may be deducted from this small sum.

[Massachusetts Ploughman.]

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES. It will be seen by the following extracts from a letter, which was received by M. Vaton, by the steamer Hibernia, and is published in the *Correspondent des Etats Unis*, that the French Government is about making some valuable donations to the United States:

PARIS, November, 28, 1849.

I have before me a list of the medals which the government place at your disposal to offer to the United States. It comprises one thousand and eighteen pieces of different designs. I notice a George Washington, the Taking of Boston, a Paul Jones, the Capture of the Serapis, two of the Battle of Cowpens. These medals will assuredly be well received by the Americans; and for my part, I mention them because they prove with what warm France entered into the war of the Revolution—the glorious children of America as to the natives of her own soil.

Should diplomacy be employed in the presentation of this magnificent collection, it will be only with a view to give the affair more solemnity, and to afford stronger evidence of the friendly disposition of the French Government. You will be none the less considered as the medium of the exchanges.

EXPLOSION OF COAL MINE. It is calculated that since 1800, more than 90,000 human beings have been killed by explosions in the coal mines in Great Britain. In 1847 and 1848 upwards of 700.

Draining warm the Soil.

It is reported that in a garden in Hampshire the temperature of the soil has been raised 15° by draining heavy land 4 ft. deep. This is true is a prodigious gain—beyond anything that we could have anticipated as a permanent result—even in summer. Circumstances prevent our believing the statement in the case alluded to; but, allowing for some exaggeration, there can be no doubt that a result sufficiently approaching it is to be of the greatest value, is attainable.

It is not now, for the first time, that the public attention has been drawn to the *Gardener's Chronicle* to this highly important subject. On the contrary we have on several previous occasions pointed out the undoubted fact that an increased temperature is one of the most valuable results of deep drainage; a more probable cause of the immediate improvement of the health of crops than the mere removal of water, or introduction of air into the soil. The nature of deep draining is in fact such as to render additional access of air to the roots of plants too inconsiderable to be appreciable. It is only when deep draining and deep trenching accompany each other that any great access of air to roots beyond what is customary can be anticipated. Where both are secured the effect is certainly magical.

There exists in Essex, not a hundred miles from Brentwood, an orchard of Apples, Pears, Plums, and Cherries, which was planted about 29 years ago in a heavy clay trenched down to an iron pan on which it lies. For a few years the trees grew pretty well, that is to say, as long as their roots were near the surface and received the warmth of the summer's sun; but as they advanced downwards the growth became "small by degrees and beautifully less," till at last it ceased, and nothing flourished but an abundance of grey lichens, with which the branches were covered. The owner was advised to drain it 3 feet below the pan. In the first year afterwards vitality was roused so effectually that the lichens began to disappear, east of by the swelling bank, and the last stage of decrepitude had been exchanged by the end of the first six months for youthful vigor. In the second and third seasons after the draining, the trees made shoots from 4 to 5 feet long.

We have no doubt that the main cause of this remarkable and sudden change was the elevation of temperature consequent upon very deep drainage. Rain becomes heated by the surface soil, and carries its temperature with it as far as it sinks into the soil. The gain in this way is variously estimated at from 10° to 15° in summer—an enormous gain, which places plants on a hot-bed—soil heat 10° above the ordinary temperature is nothing else. Deep draining, therefore, not only offers considerable security against the introduction of roots into the water channels, but has the great and unsuspected advantage of considerably raising the temperature of the earth which is in contact with the drains, deep as they may be, for water cannot soak rapidly into earth without carrying warmth along with it. This is now so well understood by men of intelligence that it is superfluous to dwell upon it.

[Lindley, Gard. Chron.]

To what depth do the Roots of plants enter the Soil?

Perhaps no fact is so little understood as the depth to which the roots of plants will travel, in a well disintegrated soil, the length of roots, also, in their horizontal travel, is much greater than generally supposed. We have tried a number of experiments to ascertain these facts, and the results are as follows. The roots of Indian corn, although invisible to the naked eye, have an average length of five and a half feet, while those of the onion are generally eighteen inches in length. If a trench be dug through a garden which has been thoroughly sub-soiled, and the side of this trench be washed carefully with water, the roots will be found to pass down to a depth of thirty-four inches as a maximum; such plants (like the onion) as have a less length of root going to deeper depths. During a severe drought, however, even the shorter rooted plants will throw down minute fibres, which bring up moisture for the sustenance of the plant.

Thus we find that meadows, if well sub-soiled to full depth before being put down to grass, never run out; but those which have been plowed to slight depths, soon begin to fail. We have examined many such meadows, and have always found that when the termini of the roots of grasses meet with a cold and compact sub-soil, they decay and prevent a healthy condition of the plant above; those meadows which have been previously fully sub-soiled, may be mown for years without any material deterioration in quality; and, indeed, if the soil contain a full supply of constituents, or receives them from judicious top dressings, the meadow may be mown for any length of time without renewal. [Working Farmer.]

FINANCES OF NEW YORK. Governor Fish, of New York, states the total debt of the state, at the close of the fiscal year, ending on the 30th September last, at \$22,505,000. Aggregate revenue, \$1,235,000. The general fund debt exceeds the amount stated last year by \$400,000. The banks are sound, but legislation will soon be necessary as the supply of state stocks will be insufficient for a basis. He recommends a mint in the city of New York.

INCREASE OF RAILROAD FARES. The Boston and Worcester and Fitchburg Railroads increased their rates of passenger fare on the 1st inst. to 25 cents per mile, and from station to station 3 cents per mile. A similar course has been adopted by the Old Colony road. We doubt whether this is just or good policy.

COMMERCE OF THE UNITED STATES. The total value of imports brought into the United States during the year ending the 30th June last, was \$118,850,439; and of exports, \$145,755,890; of which \$129,666,955 were domestic exports. The imports exceed the exports only \$2,101,519. During the previous year, the value of imports was \$154,998,828; and of exports, \$254,039,436, of which \$131,904,171 were domestic



R. EATON, Proprietor. E. HOLMES, Editor.

AUGUSTA: THURSDAY MORNING, JANUARY 17, 1850.

Telegraph across the Atlantic.

Man is seldom satisfied or content with surmounting one obstacle, even if that one is of such character that before he conquered it he thought nothing more would be required. Thus, the fact of establishing a telegraph by which he can transmit his ideas from Nova Scotia to New Orleans in a very short time, does not satisfy him. He is not content with stretching the wire across a continent, and holding familiar converse with his friends at the side most remote from him, conveying his messages with the speed of lightning. He is now seeking some mode by which the same medium of intelligence can be established across the ocean. A great many projects have been brought forward to accomplish this. The last one is from a person engaged in the manufacture of gutta percha. He proposes to cover wires with this substance, (gutta percha,) which is a non-conductor of electricity, and thus make an excellent coating or protection for them. These wires he will sink across the ocean, and warrant them to hold good and sound for ten years, for a sum not exceeding three millions of dollars. It is possible, as some navigators declare, that there are a series of banks or shoals extending across what are called the Grand Banks, to the shore of Europe, where moderately deep soundings can be obtained from shore to shore. In this case he may succeed in sinking the wires so as to establish communication from this continent to the other—but unless this be the case he will hardly succeed in the project.

The day is probably not far distant when telegraphic wires will be extended from New Orleans to the Pacific ocean, and also on each shore of South America, thus giving the power of transmitting news all over America in a few hours. By passing them up the coast to Behring's Straits, and by establishing a steam boat to ply from shore to shore, if wires cannot be thrown across, news may be transmitted from thence, across Asia and Europe, to the principal cities, with great facility and dispatch.

Cod Liver Oil.

This species of oil is now a very fashionable remedy, and so great is the call for it, that some have wickedly suggested that there are pounds of cod liver oil in the market than there are pounds of cod fish. The principal disease, for which this is prescribed and taken, is consumption. We have no doubt that in many cases where there are consumptive symptoms, relief has been obtained by the use of this medicine. Probably a free use of any other fish oil would have done the same. The accounts that we have read in narratives of voyages among the Esquimaux Indians, who live on seal oil and blubber—and the fact that the Indians of the Penobscot and Quoddy tribes on our coast, are more healthy and fat during the fishing season, when porpoise oil is plenty, tend to corroborate this opinion.

Hardening and preserving the Flesh of Animals.

Some years ago, Dr. Mott, of New York, communicated to the public the fact that an Italian had discovered a mode of hardening and petrifying the flesh and other parts of animals, so as to preserve them, and even convert them to various uses in some of the arts. This was a Signor Sigato of Tuscany, but he died without making known the mode of doing it to any one. Subsequently the Abbe Baldacchini, of Vienna, in experimenting on the mode of preserving animal matters for the museum in that city, is said to have found that a solution of sal ammoniac (muriate of ammonia) and corrosive sublimed (muriate of mercury) has the power or effect of giving to articles, immersed in it for a time, the hardness of stone, and that flesh saturated with this fluid will become so hard as to ring like a metallic body when struck. If this is the case, it may be put to a variety of valuable purposes. Possibly it may be the very mode that the Italian gentleman used, of which Dr. Mott speaks.

Lycium Lectures.

The Lecture before the Augusta Lyceum, on Thursday evening last, was delivered by Rev. Dr. Burgess, of Gardiner. The subject was MEMORY, and it was treated in a very able and interesting manner. The illustrations were well chosen, and showed the power and capability of this faculty. When we consider how much we are indebted to memory—that, without it, study is vain, experience profitless, and knowledge unattainable, we perceive the importance of cultivating the memory, and forming those habits of observation and attention upon which it chiefly depends. Perhaps many, who have not thought much of this subject, are not aware of the wealth of facts which may be stored in even ordinary minds. The words of the language we use, and their definitions—the incidents and events which have fallen under our observation, or of which we have heard or read—the various objects to which the attention has been directed from day to day and from year to year—persons, places, and things animate and inanimate—a multitude of scenes are gathered up in the storehouse of memory, and are ready to be brought out for use whenever occasion requires. The lecturer urged the importance of cultivating the memory and attention in childhood; and in the education of youth the memory should be given a synopsis of the lecture, or to notice the many interesting topics embraced in it. It was listened to with evident satisfaction by a large audience.

THE MAINE FARMER: AN AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

Written for the Maine Farmer.

Letter from a Passenger in the Bark J. A. Thompson.

ON BOARD THE BARK J. A. THOMPSON, AT SEA, NOV. 10, 1849.

FRIEND EATON!—Agreeably to my promise to write you occasionally, I herewith send you a brief account of our progress, and the incidents connected with ourselves and the Bark James A. Thompson since we left the "Old Kennebec." There is not much that will interest any except those who have friends on board, but to such it may not be presuming too much to believe that all that concerns their friends, will be of interest to them—and this will be my excuse for writing you at this time. About 2 o'clock, P. M., Oct. 24, we cast off at Bath, and were towed to sea by the steamer Malden; casting off from us outside of Seguin, several hearty cheers from our friends on board the Malden were as heartily returned by those on board the Bark. We stood to sea, and soon lost sight of that "rock bound coast," and after all had faded from our view, the reflection that so many friends would probably elapse ere we should again visit those shores, and see again those friends we had left, produced a solemn impression upon my mind, and probably had an effect upon most in the ship.

Many of the passengers soon began to manifest signs of "sea sickness," and by 9 o'clock, half the passengers were more or less sick, and unable to continue out of their berths. We were favored with a fair wind until Oct. 4th, in the morning, when we were visited with a strong wind, which had so much increased as to compel us to shorten sail, leaving just enough set to keep her before the wind and render her manageable, and this state of things continued until Saturday morning—many of the passengers being obliged to keep their berths. The weather was fine from this time till Sunday, Oct. 7, when a gale commenced from the Northeast. About midnight, the awful cry rang through the ship, "A man overboard!" Soon all was commotion. The night watch pitch dark—the rain fell in torrents—the waves running very high, and the wind blowing a gale. Hope died within us, and the remarks that were made were, "Poor fellow—he is gone—impossible to save him—Who was it?" "It was a fellow named Mr. Spencer, who had gone into the boat (made fast across the stern, upon some temporary spars) to relieve her of water which had fallen into her, when one of the spars gave way, and the man and boat were in the boiling deep. The first man threw over some rigging which he almost miraculously caught, and was drawn on board—the boat was seen no more. None but those who have been similarly situated, can judge of our feelings at this time.

Saturday Oct. 13th—Lat. 40 32 N., Lon. 42 36 W. This morning about 4 o'clock, Mr. Joseph Newhall, of Whitefield, Me., one of our passengers, breathed his last. He died of a consumption—was quite feeble when he came on board, but hoped a sea voyage might improve his health, but as his cough got to be, he began rapidly to decline. He was buried at 2 o'clock, P. M.—The manner of burial was as follows. After the body had been sewed up in a cloth, weights were attached to his feet, and he laid upon a mattress, and all upon a plank amid ship, his feet to leeward. Prayer and some appropriate remarks were made by Rev. A. Kallioh; next the tarpauls were thrown aboard, and the Bark hove to the wind, and then, at a given signal, the plank was raised and the corpse slid into the sea. All was now over, and the Bark was soon on her way.

Monday, Oct. 24—Lat. 25 41 N., Lon. 26 54 W. Since Oct. 13th, we have had some storms and calms, and variable winds, but coming on deck after breakfast this morning, a dark cloud which we had previously noticed in the Northwest, and from which frequent flashes of lightning seemed to issue, came rapidly upon us. Orders were rapidly given by the Captain, (who is a most excellent officer and a gentleman, and who seems ever desirous of promoting the comfort and happiness of his passengers,) plainly giving us to understand that there was no time to be lost, and that something more than ordinary was expected. These orders were rapidly executed, until our bark was prepared (by a reduction of sail,) to encounter a tempest. Soon the squall burst upon us, blowing like a hurricane—the hail began to fall upon our decks, such as I never saw before in my life, some of them as large as a teacup, and ranging in size to that of a walnut, (some smaller,) and we were obliged to go below. Our first mate, who has been on sea twenty-five years, says he never before saw hail stones that he was afraid of. Capt. May thinks we have seen as bad weather as we may expect on the voyage. Our bark is a noble one, and well has she acquitted herself—all having the utmost confidence in her ability to endure anything that any vessel can.

Friday, Nov. 9th. This day we crossed the Equator, thirty-eight days out. We took the south-east trade winds in 3 N. latitude, and hope they will hold out to Rio Janeiro, where we shall go in for water, &c.

Rio Janeiro, Nov. 23d. We came into this port about 8 P. M., yesterday. I am not able to give you any idea of the port, suffice it to say that nature and art have both done much to make the place pleasant, and Rio Janeiro is the most beautiful spot that I have ever seen. We have been quarantined six days, on account of the death of Mr. Newhall. All are well on board. The ship Hampton, of Bath, made the passage in 60 days. The brig Anna E. Main is lying by our side; she came out in 45 days. One ship, the Cordova, of Boston, in 60 days. The Sarah Moores was 70 days coming—so you see we have had more than an average quick passage. All were well on board the last named vessels. We shall probably get a little deduction on the length of our quarantine, and be able to get ready to go from here in about a week. I hope this may be the case. We do not like such usage very well, as all communication between us and every body else is forbidden. Respectfully yours, U. L. PETTINGILL.

EDITORIAL CHANGE. The last Portland Inquirer contains the vocabulary of its late editor, J. Q. Day, Esq., who retires from the editorial chair of that paper. Mr. Day has discharged his duty in the cause to which the Inquirer is devoted with much talent and faithfulness. He has stood the brunt of what may be called the trying days of such a paper, viz. the excitement of partisan zeal, which called it into life, and the subsequent and somewhat natural apathy which generally follows such excitement. As a brother editor, he carries with him our best wishes for success and prosperity through life.

AN AUGUSTA PORKER. Mr. Martin Carroll, of Augusta, has just slaughtered a hog that weighed 522 pounds. Said porker was a short only 15 months old. This makes a gain of a pound and nearly a quarter for each of his ribs.

SUDDEN DEATH. Samuel Prescott, Esq., of New Sharon, was found dead in the road in Rome. He was on his return from Augusta. It seems he or some one else had taken his horse out of the sleigh. No bruises or wounds were upon him, and he was warm when found, he could not have been dead long. His age was 65 years.

Nominations.

Additional to those published in the last Farmer. William Bennett, Ellsworth, Warden of State Prison; Herman Stevens, Thomaston, Inspector of do.; Daniel Smith, Thomaston, Chaplain of do. George T. Hedge, Portland, Keeper of State Arsenal at Portland. Peter Avery, Calais, Indian Agent for Passamaquoddy Tribe. Asa Redington, Augusta, Reporter of Decisions, in place of Shepley, declined. Gilman Turner, Augusta, Superintendent of Public Buildings. George W. Bachelder, Justice of Municipal Court of Gardiner. Israel Chasbourn, Alfred, Sheriff of York Co. In place of McIntire, declined. Samuel Gibson, Denmark, Sheriff of Oxford County.

John R. Redman, Brooksville, Sheriff of Hancock County; Warren King, Trenton, Register of Probate. Albert G. Lane, Machias, Register of Probate for Washington County.

Substitute for Hops in Yeast.

All our good housewives, when they make yeast, generally use a few hops; and many of them think that they cannot do without them. Some years ago the Richmond Planter contained a communication recommending as a substitute for hops in yeast, the tops of the common *Lifecorallina*—a species of what botanists call *Gratiolifolia*—and which grows in barren fields from Maine to Georgia. These tops are gathered when in full flower, and preserved in the usual way, and are used precisely as hops are used, and many prefer yeast made from them to that made from hops. We are glad to communicate any valuable properties of this very common plant. Probably it is as good for many other purposes as hops. Did you ever drink any *Lifecorallina* beer?

THE FAMILY VISITOR. This is the title of a large quarto weekly paper, just started in Cleveland, Ohio, by J. P. Kirtland, S. St. John, and O. H. Kaapp. The number before us is a very interesting one, and the design of the work seems to be somewhat different from most of the family papers now published.

It contains some fine specimens of Natural History, which interesting department of science we presume will be illustrated by the pen and pencil of Mr. Kirtland, who has made himself well acquainted with it. The paper takes no sectarian or party ground, but exhibits a high and fearless tone in morals and philanthropy. We wish it abundant success.

MUNIFICENT DONATIONS. It is understood that Rev. Daniel Campbell, late of Oxford, deceased, has given, by his will, his estate, amounting to about \$20,000, to four societies, in equal portions, viz: the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, the American Home Missionary Society, the American Trist Society, and the American Bible Society. Provision is made, however, out of the above, for the support of the widow during her life. Mr. Campbell has no children. [Vt. Chronicle.]

If we mistake not, the person above named once practiced law in this county, and resided in Winthrop. He must have been more fortunate than ministers generally are, to have accumulated that amount of Mammon for distribution.

THE BARKER FAMILY. The Barker Family gave us a splendid Concert at Winthrop Hall, on Friday evening last. They are among the best singers in the country, and the lovers of good music will always receive a rich treat, when they have an opportunity to listen to them. We hope they will be able soon to visit this place again. They will be most cordially welcomed by all the lovers of good music.

MORE PIG FODDER AND A GOOD DEAL OF IT. Mr. Loring Foss, of Winthrop, slaughtered a pig the other day, ten months old, that weighed 110 pounds, and which afforded 45 pounds of fat. Neighbor Foss need not feed pork and doughnuts this year. By an estimate of the cost of keeping, he makes the cost of his pork to be a fraction short of four cents per pound.

Gathered News Fragments, &c.

Store breaking. The Skowhegan Press states that the store of Wm. McClellan, of that place, was entered on the night of the 4th inst., and robbed of money and goods to the amount of about \$25. On the same night the store of E. C. Selden, of Norridgewick, was entered and robbed of sundry articles.

Child burnt. The Bath Mirror states that a little child of Mr. Cox, of that city, was so severely burnt by its clothes taking fire, Thursday afternoon, as to cause its death during the following night.

A salmon. The Hallowell Gazette says that a fine salmon, weighing upwards of five pounds, was caught with a smelt hook in the Kennebec river at that place, on Monday last week. Was it a veritable salmon, or was it to regard the above as a fish story?

New Brunswick Potatoes in Maine. A cargo of excellent potatoes, from the Province of New Brunswick, was sold at East Thomaston, week before last, at fifty cents per bushel.

The Press in France. The editor of a Dijon journal has been convicted of insulting President Louis, and sentenced to imprisonment for one year, and to pay a fine of 1000 francs.

Another Crevasse. Another alarming crevasse has made its appearance through the levee at Elin's plantation, parish of St. John the Baptist, New Orleans.

Fat Dividends. The various banks, railroads, and manufacturing corporations in the city of Boston, paid out on the last instant, two millions, one hundred and seventy thousand, three hundred and fifty dollars.

Fire in Oxford, Mass. On Monday morning of last week, a large wooden building in Oxford, occupied by several shoe manufacturers, and containing a large amount of stock, was destroyed by fire, together with a new dwelling house. The property was insured for about \$12,000.

Death of a distinguished Engineer.

Sir I. Brunel, the famous civil engineer, who tunnelled the Thames at London, died recently at the age of eighty. He was born in Normandy, France, left that country in the time of the revolution, commenced his course as an engineer in New York, and finally settled in London, where by a succession of brilliant triumphs, he has achieved an enduring fame.

Sabbath in France. Among the questions before the French Assembly, at the last dates, was that of rendering obligatory the observance of the Sabbath, or rather, abstinence from work on that day.

Fire and loss of life. The jail at Gettysburg, Pa., was totally consumed by fire on the 7th. One prisoner was burned to death, and another died of suffocation.

A man and wife murdered. John S. Van Winkle, and his wife, living near Paterson, N. J., were murdered on the evening of the 8th, by a man named John Johnson, who has been arrested.

Copper mine in Connecticut. An extensive copper mine, from which exceedingly rich specimens of ore have been dug, has lately been opened at Litchfield, South Farms. This mine is thought to be superior to the Bristol mine, which last year paid a net profit of one hundred and twenty thousand dollars, and is growing richer and better as it increases in depth.

Fire in Hallowell. We learn from the Gazette that the turpentine factory, near Shepherd's wharf in that town, was destroyed by fire on the evening of the 28th ult. The building, together with fifteen barrels of spirits turpentine and a large lot of pitch, was consumed. Loss about \$300. Another building has been erected, and the business is continued.

A mighty hunter. Thomas Meschan, an old hunter living in the town of Hopkinton, St. Lawrence Co., N. Y., died a few weeks since, leaving an exact account of all the game he had killed during his life. This account shows that he had killed 214 wolves, 77 panthers, 219 bears, and 2,550 deer. In all 3,600.

White and slave labor. The Louisville Courier says that white labor is rapidly taking the place of slave, in many of the families in that city. Good negro women have for several years commanded from \$100 to \$150 per annum, while white girls, who clothe themselves, and are no tax in case of sickness, can be procured for \$2 a week.

Maryland Senator. Mr. Pratt, Whig, has lately been elected to the Senate of the United States, from Maryland.

California emigration. The steamer Empire City, which lately sailed from New York for Chagres, took only thirty-five passengers. A few months ago these steamers carried from 300 to 400 passengers nearly every trip. Quite a falling off.

Cost of the Police force. The Police Committee of the Philadelphia Councils reported the expenses of the Police force of that city to be upwards of \$164,000 for the last year.

Unavoidable notoriety. With a view to discourage gambling in Madrid, the names of all persons found in gambling houses by the police of that city are regularly published in the official paper.

The Druggists, who are confined in New York, for the attempt to destroy a family with a "torpedo," are not to be admitted to bail, according to a decision of Judge Edmonds.

The Weather in Boston. We learn from the Boston papers that on Friday last the snow vanished and the sleighing was broken up there, by a copious outpouring from the clouds. The wind was southeast and the weather moderate. We had a slight thaw, in this vicinity, at the same time, but not enough to injure the sleighing.

Fire at sea. Ship Nathaniel Kimball, from Boston, bound to New Orleans, took fire on the night of the 21st ult. She arrived at Nassau on the 25th. The goods between decks were considerably damaged. The ship will be repaired and proceed to her destination.

Break up in the Grand Jury. After the Grand Jury of Suffolk County had been in session three days, at Boston, and voted nearly ninety indictments, one of the number discovered that, being an alien, he had no right to serve on a Jury, and reported his case to the County Attorney. This upset all the work of the Jury, as aliens are not eligible to act as grand or petit jurors.

Railroads in the United States. At the close of the year 1848, it was estimated there were 6,120 miles of railroad in the United States. Last year about 2,000 miles were opened, making an aggregate of 8,120 miles of railroad now in operation in the country.

A Long Pen-holder. On Saturday afternoon an operator in the Eastern Telegraph office in New York city, succeeded in writing direct to Halifax, N. S., a distance of nearly one thousand miles, and of continuous wire. This is the greatest distance that any telegraph has yet worked legibly.

Boy frozen. We find in the Toronto Christian Guardian an account of a little boy having been frozen to death on Christmas Eve, at a shooting match upon the Toronto race course. The Guardian says that when the shooting was ended and the parties were returning, it was observed that the boy remained stationary. Some persons went up to him and found him dead and stiff with cold, his eyes being fixed as though he was still gazing upon the marksmen.

DOINGS OF CONGRESS.

MONDAY, JAN. 7. SENATE. Mr. Clay presented a petition urging Congress to recognize the Government of Liberia. Mr. Davis, of Mass. presented numerous petitions to abolish flogging in the navy. The resolution offered by Mr. Cass respecting Austria, was taken up, and Mr. Hale made some remarks, but did not oppose the resolution. Mr. Clay followed in a speech against the Resolution of Mr. Cass, and concluded by saying that he did not think it honorable for the Senate to take such unnecessarily perilous ground as had been proposed, and hoped the Senate would at once reject the proposition without reference or hesitation.

HOUSE. Mr. Kaufman asked leave to report certain amendments to the rules, and moved that they be printed. Made the special order for Thursday next. The balloting for Clerk was then resumed. On the 22 ballot, Forney had 107, Campbell 92, scattering 19, no choice.

TUESDAY, JAN. 8. SENATE. Mr. Upham presented resolutions from the Legislature of Vermont, favoring an Agricultural Bureau; also, against slavery. A protracted debate followed, and the Senate took the printing of the latter. A vote to lay them on the table was lost 11 to 46. The Resolutions were passed over informally.

HOUSE. Two more ballots were had for Clerk, but no choice. Mr. Forney was elected, and Mr. Brooks submitted a proposition to postpone the election until the 1st of September. Rejected. A resolution was offered rescinding all rules in the way of a plurality vote, which was decided out of order.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 9. SENATE. Mr. Seward offered a resolution granting a portion of the public lands to Hungarian refugees. The resolution was laid over. Dr. Butler, Episcopalian, of Trinity Church, Washington, was elected Chaplain to the Senate by ballot, by the casting vote of the Vice President.

HOUSE. Mr. Richardson moved a call of the House, which was rejected. The following petitions were presented by Mr. Sawtelle. The petition of Willard Calderwood and 85 others, citizens of North Haven and Vinhaven, and navigators and seamen of the State of Maine, for the erection of suitable monuments upon Drunken and Fiddler's Ledges, at the mouth of the thoroughfare between North Haven and Vinhaven. Referred to the Committee on Commerce.

Also, the petition of John S. Abbott and sixty-seven other citizens of Norridgewick, in the State of Maine, for the establishment of a daily mail route from Waterville to North Anson, in said State. Referred to the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads.

Also, the petition of Joseph Morrison, of Canaan, in the county of Somerset, and State of Maine, for arrearages of pay and for compensation for wounds and injuries received while in the service of the United States. Referred to the Committee on Pensions.

Also, the petition of Joseph Webb, of Maine, for increase of pension. Referred to the Committee on Pensions. Also, the petition and memorial of Seth Miliken, executor of the will of John Miliken, late of Montville, State of Maine, for indemnity on account of French spoliation prior to 1800. Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Two more ballots were had for Clerk, without special change from former results. A resolution was offered to retain the present officers of the House, except the Sergeant-at-Arms. Objected to.

Mr. Schenck proposed a resolution that blanks should decide the election of Clerk. The yeas and nays were called, and Mr. Schenck's resolution voted out of order. A motion was then made to indefinitely postpone the election of Clerk, which was lost—yeas 64, nays 119. Another ballot was taken for Clerk, Forney 104, Foote 98, scattering 16. Adjourned.

THURSDAY, JAN. 10. SENATE. A debate arose on the slavery resolutions presented by Mr. Upham, from the Legislature of Vermont, which continued until the Senate went into Executive Session. Adjourned until Monday.

HOUSE. The balloting for Clerk was proceeded in. On the first ballot, Forney 102, Foote 103, Scattering 10. Mr. Schenck then withdrew the name of Mr. Foote, at his urgent request, and Messrs. Prindle and Campbell were nominated. On the 22 ballot, Forney 96, Prindle 63, Campbell 32, French 11.

Mr. Barker here proposed an indefinite postponement of the election. Rejected. The third ballot was similar in its result to the preceding one. Adj.

FRIDAY, JAN. 12th. The Senate was not in session. In the House, Mr. Evans moved a call of the house, which was taken by yeas and nays, and decided in the negative.

The committee on printing made a report in favor of printing ten thousand copies of the report on commerce and navigation. A recommission was moved, and Mr. Stevens of Georgia, proposed an amendment that the committee inquire into the expediency of probable cost of binding the same in a cheap form.

Mr. Schenck, of Ohio, moved an amendment to inquire into the expediency of reducing the number of extra copies, which was lost. Mr. Brown, of Miss, opposed the binding as a heavy expense and without profit. There were but few public documents that are ever preserved, and he preferred binding a few copies in a substantial manner.

Mr. Cabell, of Florida, moved an amendment to bind all public documents, which was lost. Mr. Stevens's amendment carried, and the reports recommitted. The committee also reported in favor of printing forty-five hundred copies of the report on the coast survey, which was adopted. The balloting for sergeant-at-arms was then proceeded with—Lane 86, Giddings 86, Washington 9, Walbridge 8. The remainder scattering. Whole number 305.

Two Weeks Later From California.

We last night received the subjoined dispatch, made up at San Francisco, by our associate Bayard Taylor, who is now in California. San Francisco, Dec. 1, 1849. The steamer Oregon, due from Panama, has not yet reached San Francisco.

The census of votes cast at the State Election shows that about 15,000 were given in all, a smaller number than that of the entire last year, yet, and much smaller than was anticipated. Peter H. Burnett is elected Governor, and John McDougal Lieutenant Governor. The members elected to the U. S. House of Representatives are George W. Wright and Edward Gilbert. All these gentlemen are democrats. Of the composition of the Legislature or the prospect as to the candidates for U. S. Senator there is nothing decisive to be added to the advice by the Panama, which were up to Nov. 15.

No disturbance of any kind had occurred here or in other regions of California since the sailing of the last steamer. Public order throughout the whole country is completely restored.

Labour is becoming constantly cheaper at San Francisco, on account of the great number of persons coming down from the mines to spend the winter, and seeking occupation in every department of industry. The prices of vegetables here are enormous, owing to their scarcity, and in fact, the necessity of life generally are much higher than they were in the same time last year. Heavy boots are now selling at San Francisco at a California of ninety-five dollars a pair.

The growth of this city is still without parallel in the records of man. It now numbers twenty thousand regular inhabitants, to say nothing of the vast number of its transient population. Commerce with other ports is growing more and more active, and the Bay no longer presents the spectacle of a desert, as it did in the month of November equalled the arrivals in number, and the trade with all parts of the Pacific is not only becoming active but regular, and is steadily undergoing a vast increase.

The last of the emigrant migration that is to be expected this year has crossed the Sierra Nevada. Those emigrants who came by the Rucker River and Salmon River routes have reached the settlements. About 70 teams who came by the route of the Sierra Nevada, and by the snows on the mountains and at last accounts were in the head waters of Deer Creek. Major Rucker with a sufficient party and all needed supplies left Sacramento City for their relief.

The quantity of gold dust still continues to increase. The yield of the river bars is great; they are rich as ever. Companies are now being formed to work the strata of quartz, which are very rich in gold. Tests which have been made in San Francisco give from one dollar and a half to three dollars' worth of gold from every pound of quartz.

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The steamers Steamer and McKim are both now running on the Sacramento. The carpenters at Sacramento City made a strike for higher wages, and were only paid \$12 a day, whereupon the contractors sealed the difficulty by raising their wages to \$16.

The weather is delightful. The air is mild and balmy as an Italian summer, and the hills around the bay are all covered with a fresh crop of grass. Yours truly, Bayard Taylor.

FROM CALIFORNIA, &c. Baltimore, Jan. 9. By the Southern Express, we have received the Orleans papers of the 24 inst., containing the advice brought by the steamship Alabama from Chagres. She has \$50,000 in gold dust on freight and \$200,000 in the hands of her passengers. The steamer Panama sailed for San Francisco on the 10th of Jan. and was expected at Panama on the 1st of Jan. When the Alabama left, the Falcon had not arrived at Chagres. The Panama Echo says that a gold mine has been discovered in the Province of Yaque, on the Isthmus, which would yield about 100,000 ounces of gold in preference to going to California. The passengers by the Alabama give an awful account of the condition of things in California. The survey was also raging to a considerable extent at the mines. A large quantity of gold was discovered at the mines. A large quantity of gold was discovered at the mines. A large quantity of gold was discovered at the mines.

ARRIVAL OF THE CHEROKEE WITH \$600,000 IN GOLD DUST. The steamship Cherokee, from Chagres, left San Francisco on Sunday forenoon, with \$200,000 in gold, to consignees, and about an equal amount in the hands of passengers. Estimated emigration to California, about 94,000.

Steamer Unicorn, from San Francisco, arrived at Panama, Dec. 28th, with \$70,000 in gold, and 137 passengers. Steamer Chesapeake had arrived at Valparaiso.

The winter had set in at the mines earlier than was anticipated, and the miners were obliged to quit the end of November. The Georgetown mines, 19 miles to the north-east of Columbia, on the South Fork of the American river, are said to be the richest in gold that have been discovered, averaging 1 ounce of gold to 10 or 12 pounds of earth. Miners are said to average 3 ounces, and instances of bagging 8 and 10 ounces per day are not rare.

Owing to bad roads and weather, provisions have become scarce in the mining country, and many persons are returning to San Francisco.

MRS. FARNHAM. It seems that this lady, who sailed for San Francisco in the Angelique, last summer, has been left at Valparaiso. While she was ashore, she was taken to a great party by a servant, the captain weighed anchor and sailed. Her two children were on board the vessel, and she was left with only a dollar or two in her pocket. She found friends in Valparaiso, and has sailed in another vessel for California.

FIRE. On Saturday night, the building on High street, owned by J. Y. McClintock and A. N. Noyes, and occupied on the first story by Edwards & Lennan as a clothing store, and N. G. Clark as a restaurant, and in the second by Edwards & Lennan as a clothing store, was taken by fire. The fire caught in Messrs Edwards & Lennan's store, and before it was discovered it had progressed so far that it was impossible to save any of the stock. The grocery store adjoining owned by J. Y. McClintock, and occupied by Robert B. Thomas, was burnt. His stock was removed, as was also that of N. G. Clark. The wooden building next to Johnson Block, owned by J. Y. McClintock, and occupied by E. C. Hilton as a clothing store, was saved by means of the engines, without any loss. Mr. Hilton's stock was moved and saved. He was insured for \$1000. Mr. Noyes was insured for \$300 in the Rockingham office. Edwards & Lennan were insured for \$4,500 in the Protection Insurance Company of New Jersey. The rest were uninsured. [Bollat Signal.]

FIRE IN PORTLAND. On Monday last week as we learn from the Argus, fire was discovered in the attic of the bank of Cumberland building. Messrs Hyde & Lord had a quantity of musc and Greenleaf's Reports, in sheets, valued at \$2500, stored in the attic, which were destroyed. The printing office of the Argus, and the jewelry store of Lowell & Senter, were moved without much damage, to escape the effects of water.

FATAL ACCIDENT. We learn from the Sandwich Observer, that Mr. Charles J. Peterson was killed last week, by following a deer, which had broken through the ice at Waukegan Bay, and had broken through. He and Mr. Jones were upset in a canoe, in which they attempted to pursue the animal. Mr. Jones was rescued by their assistance, alive. Mr. Peterson was rescued, and when they were all finally drawn out by the exertions of Mr. Swift's wife and an Indian, who yoked oxen to a large boat and hauled it to the place. All were taken from the water, but Peterson had perished, and the cold, and Mr. Jones was insensible, and was revived with difficulty. Their dog and the deer were also found to death.

